



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, August 18, 2003

This Week – Ongoing Work – 8/18/03 through 8/22/03



Highlights:

- Excavation has reached its base depth of 50 feet at several locations throughout the project site and utility conduit installation continues in the southwest quadrant.
- Crews have begun installing concrete footings (caissons) in the southwest corner of the CVC site. Ten caissons have been completed and, eventually, 165 caissons will be poured to support all of the steel and concrete columns that will be erected on the site. Crews are expected to begin erecting 50-foot-high steel columns at the end of August.
- Approximately 140 trucks delivered a total of 1,250 cubic yards of concrete to the CVC truck tunnel construction zone on Saturday, August 16, to complete placement of a portion of the tunnel's base slab.
- Excavation has begun below the existing Russell Tunnel to clear the way for the CVC truck tunnel.

Seen here are three caisson trenches along the perimeter wall in the southwest quadrant of the CVC site.

East Front Plaza Work

- Site excavation continues throughout the project site and is now more than 70 percent complete.
- Installation of tie-backs continues on the north side of the site and more than 450 tie-backs, out of a total of 494, have been installed.
- The first steel columns will be erected at the end of August. Horizontal roof beams will be connected as the vertical columns are erected. A portion of the roof structure of the CVC will begin to take shape as early as September.
- The earth retention wall around the Congressional Auditorium has been completed and excavation has reached its base depth.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements continues in the basement and sub-basement within the East Front Extension. The work will clear the way for the transition zone between the CVC and the Capitol, which will include escalators, stairwells and two 25-passenger elevators.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

Truck Tunnel Construction:

- CVC truck tunnel construction work continues on the East Front Plaza adjacent to and within the Senate triangular parking area, along Constitution Avenue NW, and along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street NW.



Three back-hoes work concurrently in the southwest quadrant of the CVC site to clear the zone for placement of concrete caissons that will support 50-foot-high steel columns.



Within the East Front Extension, in an area just east of the Crypt that formerly housed the Capitol Historical Society gift shop, a worker uses a water hose to control dust in preparation for additional demolition that will occur in this zone.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 8/25/03 through 8/29/03

East Front Plaza Work

- Excavation will continue throughout the CVC construction site. Installation of tie-backs will continue on the north side of the site. Installation of utilities and caissons will continue in the southwest quadrant of the site.

East Front (Inside the Capitol Building)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements will continue in the basement, sub-basement and upper floors within the East Front Extension.

Senate Side (Outside the CVC Construction Fence)

- CVC truck tunnel work will continue in all areas of the tunnel construction zone.



A remote-controlled mini hoe-ram (top right of photo) continues demolition of structural elements below the East Front Steps. This zone will house the grand stairwell and escalators that will connect the CVC to the Capitol.

*If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact **Tom Fontana**, CVC Project Communications Officer for the Architect of the Capitol, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at: tfontana@ao.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on our web site at www.aoc.gov.*